


Assessing Liability



The most effective way to manage risk is to reduce the risk of harm in the first place.

Consider that your volunteers might expose the nonprofit to the same risks as employees, and treat them accordingly. Best practices include a comprehensive risk management program, volunteer training, informed safety procedures and a robust procedure for reporting concerns. Some insurance companies offer special discounts or programs available to help nonprofits reduce risk. Ask whether your policy will cover acts of volunteers and in what circumstances.

Does your orientation include:

- ☐ Inherit risks your volunteers may face?
- ☐ What can be done to prevent accidents/risk?
- ☐ What to do in case of an emergency?
- ☐ Emergency contact information?

Styles of Training



Classroom

Consider scheduling regular volunteer orientations, and share upcoming orientation events with your stakeholders! No space to train? Reach out to libraries! Most have rooms that can be reserved.

On-The-Job

Training is at its best when it is experiential, practical, and hands-on. This can be done in groups, or one-on-one. You could require all volunteers to attend classroom training, in addition to scheduling on-the-job training hours for complicated assignments.

Online

Works best for simple, straightforward tasks. Make sure your volunteers are digitally competent before going this route! Done right, this method can save both time and money! See if a volunteer can help you develop this resource!